

Sudan's main party welcomes peace plan

KHARTOUM (R) — The senior party in Sudan's ruling coalition Friday welcomed a peace accord with southern rebels, isolating militants and raising prospects of a government break-up.

"The accord is a step towards peace," Umma Party Secretary-General Ali Hassan Tajeddin was quoted by the official SUNA news agency as saying.

Diplomats said Umma's stance would isolate militant coalition member the National Islamic Front (NIF). NIF opposes the pact and has warned it could herald the collapse of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's six-month old government.

The accord was signed in Addis Ababa Wednesday by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the coalition's second biggest party.

It aimed at ending five years of civil war that has created three million refugees and caused mass starvation.

NIF leader Hassan Al Toumabi, who is deputy prime minister and justice minister, was quoted by SUNA as saying Friday the accord could lead to the fall of the government, the dissolution of parliament and destabilise the army.

The army showed signs of approving the pact in statements

earlier this week by Defence Minister Abdul Maged Hamed Khalil.

NIF has said the pact amounts to government surrender to the rebels, who are fighting what they say is northern domination of the country's south.

The pact, which requires government and parliament approval, calls for a ceasefire and a freeze on imposition of Islamic law until a conference on the constitution proposed for Dec. 31.

SUNA quoted Tajeddin, who is on a five-man council acting as the country's president, as saying "we are all for any positive initiative towards peace and we hope that this one can achieve peace for our country."

The Western and Arab diplomats said Umma and the DUP might form a new coalition, dropping the NIF which is its third biggest member and bringing in small southern parties.

A new coalition would be Sudan's fourth since elections in April 1986.

The opposition Communist Party, the Union of Sudanese

African Parties, the Arab Baathist Party and several trade and professional unions have said they back the accord.

The cabinet was due to discuss the agreement signed by DUP leader Mohammad Osman Al Marghani and SPLA leader John Garang Sunday.

The pact also calls for a lifting of Sudan's state of emergency and abrogation of its military pacts with other states, a reference believed by diplomats to refer to accords with neighbouring Libya and Egypt.

The NIF joined Mahdi's coalition after two years in opposition, saying its main objective was to revive Islamic law which had been frozen since the overthrow in 1985 of President Jaafar Numeiri.

Relief officials said the accord could allow supplies to reach an estimated two million people short of food in the south, where thousands have starved to death this year.

Marghani, spiritual leader of the large Muslim Al Khatmiya sect, received a hero's welcome from at least 100,000 people on his return from Addis Ababa Thursday.

He told a DUP rally that the SPLA had agreed to release three captured government soldiers as a gesture of goodwill.

Iraq, Britain seek to play down diplomatic row

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Britain appeared determined Friday to play down their expulsions of diplomats in an apparent attempt to avoid a further setback to relations.

A British diplomat in Baghdad confirmed Iraq had expelled three British envoys in retaliation for London asking three Iraqi embassy members to leave.

Iraq Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun told Reuters: "We had hoped to keep these reciprocal acts private ... it's difficult to analyse the effect. But it would have been better to keep the matter private."

"Our diplomats have left Baghdad," the British diplomat said. "We requested the Iraqi diplomats to withdraw from London and those they expelled ours... it was three for three."

He refused to comment on the effect of expulsions other than to say: "These things happen."

On Thursday, the United States said it had ordered an Iraqi diplomat out of the country in retaliation for what it claimed was the unjustified expulsion of a U.S. diplomat in Baghdad.

A spokesman for Britain's Foreign Office in London said Friday that the Iraqis who left had engaged in "activities incompatible with their status."

He said a fourth Iraqi embassy member who was not then in Britain was barred from returning. London asked the Iraqis to leave last month, and Baghdad

retaliated Nov. 1, he said.

Nevertheless, Nov. 7, Britain doubled its credits to Iraq in an apparent attempt to improve relations.

London-Baghdad links were already frayed over London's backing for U.S. demands for an inquiry into allegations that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels. Baghdad denied such use.

In London, Iraq's ambassador to Britain made a low-key response to the expulsions of three of his staff.

U.S. Jews warn Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Three U.S. congressmen, none of them Jewish, warned Israel Friday that American Jews' support for Israel would decline if strict orthodox precept became law.

A majority of America's 5.5 million Jews belong to the conservative and reform strains of Judaism and fear legislation to entrench Israel's orthodox monopoly on matters like marriage and conversion will disenfranchise them as Jews.

"We as U.S. congressmen don't have the right to intervene in the internal politics of Israel but the Jews of New Jersey asked us to tell Israeli leaders... the Jewish community of the United States show less support for Israel if internal policies are not what they should be," said Rep.

Rep. Gérard Bise said: "We've contacted everybody, all Palestinian and Lebanese groups in Sidon, and so far there has been no word on Winkler."

No group has claimed Winkler's abduction. However, police said they believe he was kidnapped for a trade-off with Hussein Hariri, a Lebanese aircraft hijacker held in Switzerland for more than 15 months.

Hariri, 22, a member of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, hijacked and Air Afrique jetliner while on a flight from Rome to Paris and forced it to land at Geneva airport July 24, 1987. He killed a French passenger before he was overpowered and arrested.

The fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God, is an umbrella to pro-Iranian factions holding most of the 14 Western hostages, including nine Americans, in Lebanon.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, theorised that the PLO's kidnappers had taken Winkler on behalf of Hezbollah.

"The two groups have long been allied. Hezbollah is believed

Hunt continues for kidnapped ICRC delegate in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Lebanese militiamen and Palestinian fighters searched for a Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in and around Sidon Friday, a day after he was kidnapped by three gunmen.

Joint patrols combed through the teeming refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh and adjacent orange and banana groves on Sidon's southern outskirts under heavy rain, looking for clues on the whereabouts of Peter Winkler.

Winkler's fellow ICRC delegate Gérard Bise said: "We've contacted everybody, all Palestinian and Lebanese groups in Sidon, and so far there has been no word on Winkler."

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"The two groups have long been allied. Hezbollah is believed

to have requested Abu Nidal's people to kidnap the Swiss for a possible exchange for Hariri because Hezbollah does not maintain any presence in the Sidon region," the spokesman said.

About 80,000 Palestinians reside in the region, mainly in Ain Al Hilweh and the nearby Mich Mich refugee camp. Previous attempts to find kidnapped victims in South Lebanon have not always succeeded.

The spokesman said signs of the Hezbollah-Abu Nidal alliance first surfaced in 1986, when Hezbollah "sold" one American and two British hostages to Abu Nidal. The faction killed them to avenge the U.S. air attack on Libya in April of that year.

Jews confident Sununu will not hurt ties to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Jewish groups said Thursday President-elect George Bush's selection of John Sununu as his White House chief of staff was troubling but they believed it would not shake the next president's strong support of Israel.

"The footprints we see don't make us comfortable," said David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee.

"But we expect him (Sununu) to adhere to the Bush line, which has been well articulated in many speeches and is very supportive of Israel."

New Hampshire Governor Sununu, a Lebanese-American, was the only one of the 50 state governors who refused to sign a condemnation of a 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

After Bush announced his

selection Thursday, Sununu told a news conference he did not sign because he thought the proclamation was an inappropriate step by the governors. He said that despite his stand in that matter, he opposed the U.N. resolution.

"I have no problem saying that (U.N. resolution) should be re-published, that we ought to take actions in the U.N. to take that off the rolls, so to speak," he said.

"I understand very clearly that the key to peace and tranquility in the Middle East is to guarantee and to continue to guarantee the integrity and the security of Israel."

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After Bush announced his

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Israel's iron-fist policy part of expansionist design'

(Continued from page 1)

Gaza Strip — since June 1987 until August 1988. Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank now total 170 while those in the Gaza Strip total 20, he said.

Israel's policy in the occupied territories is based on violence, terror, imprisonment, torture, murder, starvation, and other inhuman practices," Salih said. "These are aimed at evicting the Palestinian people from their homeland as a fait accompli prior to annexation," he said.

The Israeli justification for these measures are always "security considerations in the light of the ongoing Palestinian uprising," Salih told the meeting. "But what justifications can there be for Israel using the same measures against the inhabitants of the occupied territories for the past 20 years?" he asked.

Moscow extends recognition to Palestinian declaration

(Continued from page 1)

242 had removed all obstacles to an international Middle East conference.

It urged the United States to use its influence on Israel to persuade it to take part in any such conference.

Israeli leaders refrained Friday from commenting on the Soviet decision.

"We are not in a hurry to react, but it doesn't look good," said foreign ministry spokesman Ailon Lieb.

Israeli leaders decided to respond only after studying a text of Bessmertnykh's remarks, both Lieb and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Israel, meanwhile, launched a diplomatic offensive in an attempt to discredit the state.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres summoned 60 foreign ambassadors and representatives to explain Israel's rejection of both the PLO's statehood declaration and U.N. resolu-

tions.

Peres was quoted as telling the diplomats that the PLO's decisions offered no progress towards Middle East peace because the organisation had stopped short of renouncing "terrorism" and declared statehood unilaterally, before negotiation of a settlement.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Friday ruled out Australian recognition of the new state but said the declaration represented a positive step in Middle East politics.

The Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Syrians in the Golan Heights are in the Israeli view a military and security target and a political obstacle in the face of its expansionist policies, and are therefore not human beings, and

have no human rights."

"They are not recognised by Israel as people with rights."

Israel has violated the human rights and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and does not apply the provisions of Geneva convention on the rights of civilians in time of war," Salih said.

"Nor does it apply the terms dealing with the treatment of the prisoners of war as appearing in the Geneva convention of 1949."

Salih held Israel responsible for the continued tension in the region.

The Palestinian uprising, he said, has "for the first time moved the crux of conflict, with all its inherent psychological and political dimensions, to the land from where this conflict originally generated. The uprising has shown that there are only two solutions — one leading to peace and justice and the other leading to further suffering and tension. The Palestinian uprising did away with the

Israeli concept of peace and security based on the Israeli assumption that power and military superiority are the only means for security and stability."

Salih referred the United Nations secretary general's report of December 1987 in which he said the Palestinian uprising was a spontaneous protest against the occupation and that it reflected the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation.

The secretary general's report also said that the Palestinian people is unanimous on the need for finding a political solution for their problem.

The report noted that any actions designed to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering should not be taken as an alternative for a speedy solution to the major political problem.

"Pending finding a political solution, the international community should ensure the maintenance and protection of the human rights of the Palestinian people."

The State Department, in its first substantive comment on implicit recognition of Israel by the Palestinian parliament, said the PLO had not gone far enough.

"It is ambiguous, both in its placement in the text and its meaning. Possibly implied or indirect recognition of Israel is not enough," spokesman Charles Redman said.

Abu Yaha said the PLO wanted to concentrate on positive aspects of the U.S. reaction and was confident that its message would reach Washington through the documents approved by the PNC.

The PLO could accept a divided Jerusalem, the PLO's representative in Bonn said Thursday.

Abdallah Frangi, reading a prepared text to a news conference, said: "The proclamation of the state of Palestine of Nov. 15, 1988, has made very clear the will of the Palestinians to create a just and lasting peace with a Palestinian state in its warehouses for 10 years against international reg-

ulations," Tehran Radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

Iran has denied recent reports of contacts with the United States but said the release of Iranian assets worth billions of dollars would be a sign of goodwill and open the way to better relations.

A security source told Reuters in Beirut Wednesday that Iran was discussing a deal with Washington involving an exchange of American hostages for the U.S. embassy in Tehran and release of the Iranian assets.

A State Department spokesman dismissed the report.

Speaking in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, Rafsanjani said Iran's 1979 revolution was now an established reality and no power in the world could hide the desire to establish relations.

Iran claims that it is owed \$12 billion for weapons and equipment bought by the late Shah but not delivered by the time the revolution swept him from power.

On Nov. 9 President Reagan extended a freeze on Iranian assets, first blocked nine years ago after militant students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Rafsanjani said the freeze "penalised the Iranian nation for not wanting to accept the deci-

sions it (the United States) wants to impose," reported Tehran Radio.

Reagan administration officials secretly sold arms to Iran in 1985-86 in return for the release of three Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Tehran said the deal was part of a U.S. effort to renew ties but it was thwarted by political rivalries in Washington. U.S. officials said it was meant to encourage a "moderate" leadership in Iran.

The arms-for-hostages exchange with Iran and diversion of profits to rebels in Nicaragua became the biggest crisis of the Reagan presidency.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS
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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES OMAN: His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of good wishes to Sultan Qaboos of Oman on his country's National Day. The King wished the sultan continued happiness and his people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is due to open an art exhibition entitled "The Friends of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries' Plastic Art" at the Jordan National Gallery on Dec. 8. The exhibition includes paintings representing various plastic art schools by twenty artists from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE. (Petra)

KHASAWNEH RECEIVES ENVOY: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday received Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Mabab Mubbil (Petra).

HAMZEH INVITED TO ITALY: Health Minister Zaid Hamzez Thursday received the Italian charge d'affaires in Amman. During the meeting Dr. Hamzez received an invitation from his Italian counterpart to attend a ceremony due to be held in Rome on Dec. 7, on the 100th anniversary of the issuance of the Public Health Law in Italy. After the ceremony, the health ministers invited from different parts of the world will meet to discuss health issues of common interest. (Petra)

DAKHGAN VISITS MA'AN: Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhgan visited Ma'an Thursday to inspect water and irrigation projects and to discuss matters related to these projects with local officials. The minister inspected a wastewater treatment plant, the main water tower in Ma'an and a water network. He also toured a number of artesian water wells supplying the city with drinking water, and heard the views of local officials on the public needs of additional water supplies especially during the summer. (Petra)

ENVOY TO CYPRUS: The council of ministers has appointed Samir Khalifa as non-resident ambassador to Cyprus. Khalifa is also Jordan's ambassador to Greece.

COURSE FOR MINISTRY EMPLOYERS: Over a hundred employees of the Ministry of Education Thursday began a two-week training course in Amman covering the fields of production, administration, publication, editing, and design. This course is intended to develop the employees' capabilities in these fields. (Petra)

MUSEUM COMMITTEE HOLDS TALKS: The mobile Life and Science Museum-consultative and preparatory committee Thursday continued its meetings with representatives of various institutions and discussed matters dealing with the museum. These institutions will help make preparations for the museum alongside Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Haya Arts Centre. A specialised committee was formed to make all the preparations for the museum. (Petra)

SEMINAR ON LOCUSTS: A seminar was held in Irbid to discuss means of combating locusts. Specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture addressed the meeting explaining the ministry's measures to counter any invasion by the pest and the present locust situation in the Arab region. (Petra)

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: A group of junior police officers concluded a training course in leadership skills, organised by the Police Academy in Amman, and graduated at a ceremony held Thursday. The graduates received diplomas at the ceremony from the academy's commander Brigadier Mohammad Bassoul. (Petra)

Young pianist to perform at RCC

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times



Rula C. Nabeel

AMMAN — Among the events organised on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 53rd birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, is a piano recital by young Jordanian Rula C. Nabeel. The performance is organised by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, in collaboration with the Royal Jordanian, the Amman Marriott Hotel, and the Royal Cultural Centre.

On Sunday Nov. 20, at 8:00 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Rula Nabeel will play works by Beethoven, Chopin, Haydn and Bach. Although she will be arriving from Europe where she is completing her masters degree in music, Rula's home is in Amman.

It is much reassuring to notice the increasing number of local musicians giving concerts and recitals in Jordan, often joining the foreign artists in combined performances. Miss Nabeel belongs to the young generation of Jordanian musicians who have the potential to create and participate in a local music movement.

Born here in 1966, in a family where everyone loves music, she started studying the piano at the age of 7 with Miss Huda Shaban. She must have fallen in love with the instrument, for by the time she graduated from the Rosary College, she was awarded Her Majesty Queen Noor's Music Scholarship and went on Germany for higher music education, in an arrangement with the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education.

Passing brilliantly a highly competitive entrance examination, she attended the courses given by Professor Hans-Helmut Schwarz in Mainz — Germany.

Rula Nabeel's recital comes in a series of three performances including Professor Hans-Helmut Schwarz and Edith Henrici.

She has already performed in Europe with several music ensembles sometimes as a soloist.

Her plans for the future are ambitious since she intends to have, in addition to Jordan naturally, an international career.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of rare Arabic coins at the Central Bank of Jordan.
- * A book exhibition of recent American publications on economics, management, business, and other topics of interest to students and professionals in business and public administration at the American Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdil Haizzi Showroom Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- * A plastic exhibition by Abdil Ra'ouf Shamsen at Jordan Association of Plastic Arts hall.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Hashemites in Historical Photos and Documents" at Madiha Young Women's Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture in English by Prof. Dr. H. Dickhans entitled "Computer-Diagnosis by Using Small and Data Processing" at the Jordan University Hospital Auditorium — 12:00 noon.

283 students receive honours

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 283 students from Jordanian schools were honoured Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath for their marked efforts in youth activities within the Prince Hassan Award programmes.

Of the winners 16 were presented with golden prizes, 92 silver and 175 were awarded bronze prizes for their participation in these programmes which are held annually.

The director of the Prince Hassan Award programmes made a speech at the ceremony held at the International Baccalaureate School in Amman outlining the different activities included in the programmes which, she said, aim to promote the young Jordanian people's contribution to their country.

The award which has been initiated in 1984 is similar to that known as the Duke of Edinburgh Award created in 1956 and is widely spread in many countries.

The programmes involved in the participation of youths aged between 14 and 25 in various skills, youth activities and voluntary service designed to enhance



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday presents an award to one of the 283 Jordanian students at the International Baccalaureate School (Petra photo)

their personalities and promote their society's stand.

Among those attending the ceremony were the ministers of

education and higher education, president of Jordanian universities and an audience of invited guests.

King Hussein's visits to West Germany was an expression of the Kingdom's belief in the importance of that country's leading role within the European Community, to bring about stability and peace to the Middle East," Lawzi said at the meeting which was held at parliament building.

Jordan, Lawzi said, "takes pride in its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and hopes that Bonn will be instrumental in convening an international Middle East peace conference.

"Israel's continued rejection of peace and international will represents the major stumbling block in the path of this region's stability and security, and continues to cause further wastage of the Middle Eastern countries' financial, economic and human resources," Lawzi pointed out.

Thus, he said, calls for West Germany and the European Community to play a leading role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and help bring about peace to the region.

The head of the visiting delegation paid tribute to efforts by His Majesty King Hussein in orienting world public opinion on the real situation in the region and in seeking an international conference to establish a lasting peace.

Earlier Thursday, Lawzi delivered a lecture at parliament building outlining the development of parliamentary life in the Kingdom since the rule of the late King Abdullah, founder of the

Senate speaker meets W. German MPs

Cooperation with Bonn contributes to Jordan's development — Lawzi

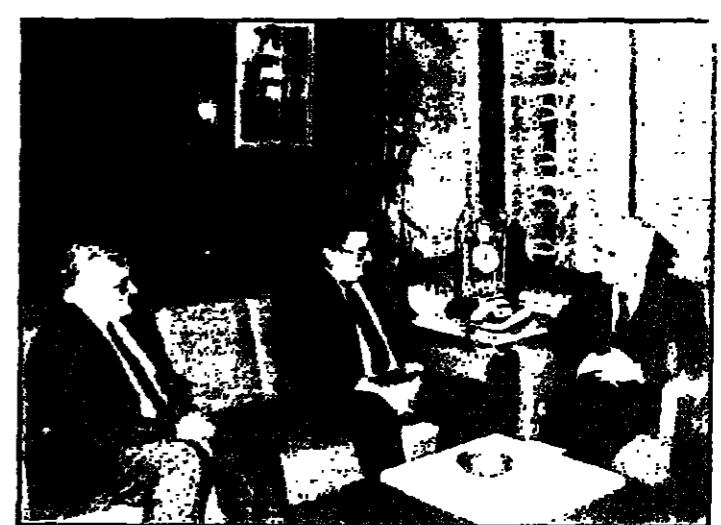
AMMAN (Petra) — Economic cooperation between West Germany and Jordan is bound to contribute to the Kingdom's development and prosperity, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said at a meeting here Thursday with a visiting West German parliamentary delegation.

dealt a heavy blow to parliamentary life in the country causing the Kingdom to create the National Consultative Council that helped the government to discharge its various duties.

The severing of ties with the West Bank this year came in response to the wishes of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and has helped in the process of creating the independent Palestinian state, Lawzi said.

He said the government is now involved in measures to amend the election law and a special committee has been set up to take the necessary arrangements in this respect.

The lecture was attended by Civil Service Commission director general and participants in an on-going training seminar on higher level public administration organised by the Institute of Public Administration.



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi receives West German parliamentary delegation in Amman Thursday (Petra photo)

Celebrations on King Hussein's birthday continue in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — A major celebration was held at the sports complex in Aqaba and different ceremonies were held in other towns throughout the Kingdom Thursday and Friday to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Youth clubs, Boy Scouts and various organisations took part in processions in which youth carried posters, the King's portraits and Jordanian flags and passed through main streets and public squares accompanied by the Armed Forces Brass Bands.

The sports complex in Aqaba was the scene of a variety of performances that involved activities by local schoolchildren and a visiting Egyptian folk troupe.

The children presented national dancing and songs and speeches were delivered on the occasion by dignitaries and heads of local councils. Several sports events were held in a number of areas.

Among those present at Aqaba's celebrations were Minister of Tourism Zubair Ajlouni and Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri.

Latter, Hammouri opened an exhibition in Aqaba displaying artefacts and antiquities excavated in the port city by the

Aqaba children present songs at the Aqaba sports complex on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday (Petra photo)

Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

The exhibition conducted in the ancient Islamic city of Ayla located in the centre of modern Aqaba marks the end of a six week digging season by the archaeologists, working under the direction of Dr. Donald Whitcomb, and the conclusion of the third season of excavations in that area.

The Ministry of Planning, Greater Amman Municipality

Seminar to discuss Greater Amman development

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on planning in the Greater Amman Region will open here Monday to focus light on the coming three-day seminar, which will discuss 30 working papers prepared by specialists in city organisation including professors from Jordanian universities and others from abroad.

The working papers deal with other countries experiments in

planning city transport, urban development, the involvement of different organisations and government departments in resolving housing, population and municipal issues in cities and the use of land for housing within urban regions, according to a statement from Greater Amman Municipality.

It said that the municipality will open a museum displaying charts, maps and organisational plans.

Exhibition displays items left behind by ancient travellers, people of Aqaba

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

IF YOU walk through the port-resort of Aqaba today, you will encounter people and goods that have come to the land of Jordan from the four corners of the world, whether for reasons of tourism, commerce, travel or employment. They carry their culture with them in the form of small objects and commercial goods — ceramic or plastic plates, small symbols of their religious beliefs, inscribed bits of wood, metal or other durable materials, glass objects, jewellery, coins, metal instruments and scores of small functional objects or utensils that are used for the day-to-day tasks of ordinary people in scores of cultures around the world.

The exhibition, which opened at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre Thursday, brings together a splendid collection of artifacts from the excavations which have been conducted by a team headed by Dr. Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. The exhibition was first displayed at the Oriental Institute last year, and was neatly designed by Jim Richerson so that it could be easily packed and transported in several wooden crates for display elsewhere. After its two-week stint in Amman, the exhibition

will travel to the new museum at the Yarmouk University Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, after which it will go on permanent display at Aqaba itself, in the new visitors' centre now being refurbished by the Ministry of Tourism. The exhibition is entitled "Aqaba: Port of Palestine and Storehouse of the Hijaz on the China Sea" and it lasts until the end of the month.

The site being excavated is the early and medieval Islamic town which was called Ayla, now being exposed again underneath a large sandy field between the corniche and the sea, across the street from the Miramar Hotel. Three seasons of excavations have revealed a walled town some 160 x 145 metres in size, with outer walls, towers and city gates still standing over four metres high in places. Excavations have documented about 500 years of the town's history, from the mid-7th Century to the mid-12th Century AD, spanning the historical periods of the earliest Islamic conquests around 640-650 AD, followed by the Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid eras.

The site itself is particularly noteworthy — perhaps uniquely so — because it may represent the earliest and best preserved Islamic town outside of Islam's birthplace in Arabia. It has started providing valuable information about how the first Muslims viewed the concept of town planning. In Don Whitcomb's words, "it will help us understand what the first Muslims viewed as an appropriate urban plan, and how towns and cities became 'Islamised' during the early decades of the Muslim conquests outside Arabia."

When the Islamic forces conquered the region of south Jordan and established their new town at Ayla around 650 AD, there was a Byzantine town in the vicinity which they seem to have left in peace, preferring to establish a new Islamic town which may have started as a fortified Greco-Roman and Byzantine settlements, such as rectangular fortifications and semi-circular towers. The internal town plan would have re-

flected new urban concepts and structures, such as the mosque, the location of the cemetery and the placement of public buildings.

Throughout its life, Ayla traded widely with ports throughout the ancient world, and the excavations have revealed a range of cultural artifacts from China, Iraq, Egypt and southern Arabia. Some of the exciting finds include storage jars from China; luxury ceramics (lustre wares and blue-green glazed storage jars) from the Abbasid capital of Samarra, in Iraq; steatite stone vessels and lamps from the area of Yemen; and Coptic painted ware and Fatimid era ceramics from Egypt.

All of these and many other cultural artifacts, including metal, bone, glass and ceramic objects, are displayed in a most pleasing manner, which prods the visitor to the exhibition to imagine ships that sailed to Ayla's port carrying commercial goods and commodities from the many ports that formed the international trading network of the ancient world. Also on display are pieces from the Roman and Byzantine settlements that preceded Ayla at Aqaba, such as fragments of a Latin inscription (a dedicatory plaque) from the Byzantine town of the 4th Century AD, and limestone and marble fragments from the Byzantine churches of the area.

This year's excavations have conclusively documented the extent of the walled Islamic town, pinpointing the eastern and southern town walls, the two city gates in those walls, and the extra-mural cemetery of the mid-7th Century AD town. Intriguing new finds this year include small pieces of carved bone with reliefs of warriors carrying round and pointed shields.

While the excavations have added much new information to our understanding of historical and cultural events in the land of Jordan during the early and medieval Islamic centuries, the exhibition itself is testament to how the knowledge gleaned from the ancient earth of Jordan can be shared with a wider audience and



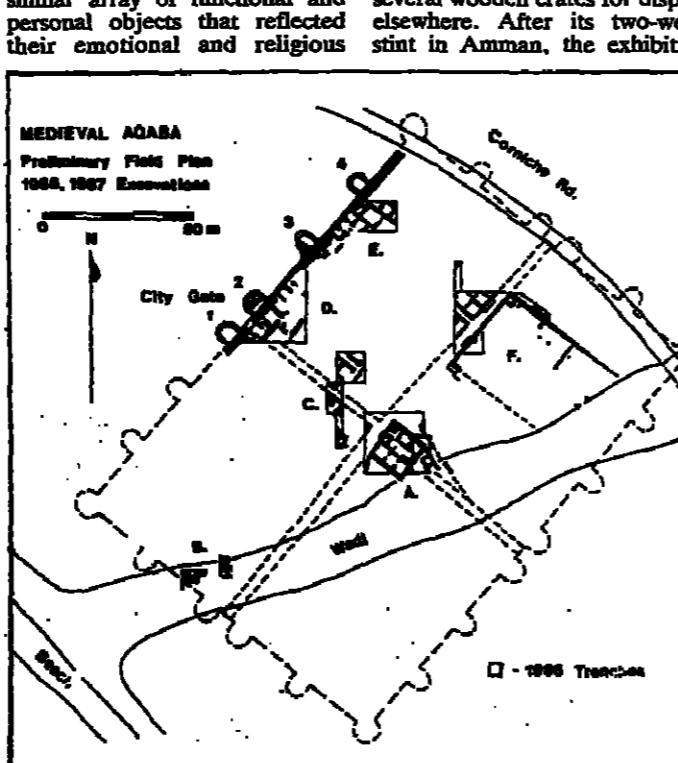
A fragment of the Latin dedicatory plaque from the Byzantine town of Ayla.

ties that are planned for the club — notably the hotel and the main club headquarters.

The Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago team are to be commended for showing how such an exhibition can be put together using locally available materials for the showcases and explanatory panels — at relatively modest cost, and in a manner that allows the exhibition to be dismantled and put up again at other locations in Jordan or abroad.

Another challenge that remains to be met is how to conserve the important ancient town while allowing modern development to continue apace at Aqaba, for the site of the excavated city is earmarked for a new marina and hotel complex being established by the Royal Yacht Club of Jordan. The club has been most cooperative in allowing the dig to continue, but in the coming few months some important decisions will have to be made about where to locate some of the new facilities.

The Aqaba excavations will continue next year, and have been funded to date by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Geographic Society, the Royal Jordanian airlines, the National Geographic Society, the Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago.



Plan of the site of medieval Aqaba (Ayla), with excavations from the 1986 and 1987 seasons.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جورنال تايمز جريدة عربية مستقلة صدر باللغة الإنجليزية في الأردن

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

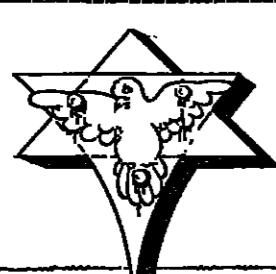
Enough is enough

IT WILL be premature to believe that the peace agreement reached this week between a major coalition partner in the Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could lead to an overnight comprehensive settlement to the north-south conflict in the country. But, it indeed is a step in the right direction, at least in that it indicates positive feelings on both sides towards dialogue as a means to settle the conflict.

More than anything else, the tentative accord is sending a strong signal to the outside world that there is a growing majority in Sudan that believes enough is enough and that it is time to shift attention to the country's grave problems of famine, drought and floods. Despite the hesitant notes from the SPLA over the agreement's interpretation — whether it means an immediate ceasefire or not — we in Jordan cannot but hope that Sudanese leaders will try to build on the Addis Ababa accord and consolidate it to the point where the devastated millions in the war-stricken areas could receive food and relief supplies without hindrance. That could be the most outstanding accomplishment of the country's politicians and bureaucrats.

But, the danger lies in the possibility that the political controversy that the agreement has sparked in Khartoum could lead to a collapse of the coalition government, thus torpedoing the peace process before it could get off the ground.

We can only appeal to all Sudanese leaders from every corner of the political spectrum to stop and consider for a moment where their national interests lie and how best could they shoulder their responsibilities towards the millions of their countrymen who have experienced nothing but despair, agony and suffering in the past several years. The paramount question is: are their political interests worth the death of a few thousands more due to hunger and starvation?



Waleed — Al Dustour

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday tackled Israel's handling of the very positive world-wide reaction to the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, and said that Zionist leaders are now in a race against time to prevent countries from recognising it. One Israeli parliament member went as far as demanding that Tabu should not be handed over to Egypt unless that country pledged non-recognition of the new state, the paper noted. This is clearly an interference in another country's internal affairs, but Israel can resort to any measure and at any level to achieve its objectives, the paper added. All Israel's manoeuvres against the Palestinian state should be regarded as attempts to prevent a lasting peace from being established in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; and should also be looked on as a new diplomatic intimidation no less dangerous than military aggression, the paper said. It said that the convening of an international conference on the Middle East is the only viable means of finding a just and lasting formula for peace between the Arabs and Israel; and the only way that can pave the way for the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday advises Israel to save its propaganda campaigns against the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular, and says that Israel's warning to Egypt to refrain from recognising the Palestinian state will be in vain. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Egypt has more than on one occasion pledged that it would remain committed to the Arab Defence Pact and all national causes, and has proved time and again that it is indeed committed to support the Arab World's efforts to achieve peace and to back the Palestinians to regain their rights and their homeland. The writer says that Israel's politicians have warned Egypt that recognition of the independent Palestinian state meant a violation of the Camp David Agreements but was rebuffed by Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid's announcement that Cairo welcomes the proclamation and considers it as a positive move towards peace. He says Israel should give up the idea of regarding the Camp David accord as a solution for all its problems with the Arabs since as Egypt has earlier declared those agreements are no more suitable for a lasting settlement.

Al Dustour newspaper discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories where, it said, the Zionists have failed to quell the uprising. Not only has Israel failed to stop the stone-throwers and put an end to the protests in these territories, but it has now proved to be a failure also at the diplomatic front, the paper noted. It said that Israeli leaders have failed to stop countries from recognising the Palestinian state especially Third World countries and European nations which have voiced their warm welcome of the Palestinian proclamation. Israel's disappointment and isolation from the rest of the world can best be viewed in the present sympathetic stand of France and the United Kingdom towards the Palestinian cause, and in a growing world-wide demand for the convening of an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper pointed out. The paper referred in particular to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's statement in Washington on the Middle East, and said it clearly displays Israel's failure to win over major nations to its side.

The following is the second part of a two part series on global issues taken from the book: *Winning the Human Race*, the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan launched last month during visits to London and Paris.

Poverty and development

THE ELIMINATION of poverty and the satisfaction of basic human needs is still a goal which challenges both individuals and societies. Indeed, despite all individual, national and international efforts, the majority of people encounter famine, disease and death as an almost daily consequence of their poverty. All our technological achievements and all our mastery of material things do not prevent human-beings from dying of malnutrition every minute of every day somewhere on this planet.

There remain large areas of absolute poverty, particularly in Africa and Asia. Far from improving, in Sub-Saharan Africa per capita incomes have been falling for over a decade. Low-income Africa is now poorer than in 1960, and the World Bank projects a further decline over the next decade. The prospects for the absolute poor, now numbering some 800 million, are more desperate than ever before.

However, the concern of ordinary people, particularly in the industrialised countries has grown as that of their governments has diminished. In 1985, the year of worldwide publicity for the famine in Africa, the non-governmental organisations, which include the major famine relief agencies, recorded an impressive 20 per cent increase in their contributions. The overall picture, however, remains one of inadequacy in the face of ever-increasing human need.

The struggle against poverty is crucial to the future of our global human society and it concerns people and governments everywhere. There is a need to increase agricultural yields, as well as to make major policy changes in the relationship of agriculture to industry and of farmers to city dwellers. Some one billion people in rural areas of the Third World are landless or nearly so. Costly programmes of land reclamations, rural credit and infrastructural development are required and the problem of land distribution needs to be addressed.

Yet the necessary emphasis on agriculture must not obscure the needs of the world's city dwellers. At the present time our planet has some 250 cities of over a million people each. Of these 100 are in the developing world. By the end of the century there will be 440 such cities and 300 — almost two-thirds — of them will be in the developing world. Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, disease, high infant mortality and low life-expectancy, and the resultant denial of human potential for the multitude of individuals concerned will put severe strains on the social, national and international fabric of our society.

Race in the wrong direction

Global militarisation

PERHAPS, for the first time in human history, millions of people in the world over are not just uncertain about their own future or concerned about their children's future, they are deeply anxious about the future of our entire planet. Their anxiety springs from the fact that man now has the capacity to eradicate human life from this planet many times over. With the aid of their military industrial establishments, the superpowers have, during recent years, elevated their rivalry to such a level that fear is beginning to subvert reason.

The argument that a nuclear deterrence strategy, which until now has underpinned the arms race, has succeeded in keeping the peace between East and West for nearly 40 years cannot be easily dismissed. But, as nuclear weapons proliferate and the destructive power of those weapons becomes more apocalyptic, the proposition that we must have this massive capacity to annihilate ourselves totally has lost all credibility.

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The arms race pollutes the ethical stream of human survival not only by threatening man's physical existence but also by impairing his prospects for development, particularly the more balanced and sustainable development now widely recognised as essential. When almost one trillion dollars are devoted every year to military expenditure, when the great majority of the world's scientists, engineers and technicians are engaged in military-related research or production, when the military culture becomes paramount in the corridors and council chambers of world power and spreads even to the developing world, real development is not only neglected, it is negated. This is the case for all countries, rich and poor, with the most devastating consequences for the poorest.

One of the most tragic consequences of a civilisation geared for war rather than peace is the rapid spread of militarisation throughout the countries of the Third World, in defiance of the evident gravity of developmental need. One quarter of the Third World's crippling debt burden of nearly \$1.000 billion results from arms purchases. While Third World arms imports have fallen recently, due partly to declining oil revenue and to the debt crisis, Third World arms industries have

new phenomenon. The term is used, sometimes wrongly, to describe a wide variety of violent activities, but is usually understood to mean the use or threat of violence designed to achieve a political purpose by individuals or small groups. As such, it has much in common with the actions of resistance movements in territories occupied by hostile forces, a comparison which immediately suggests the ambiguities inherent in the world terrorist, since one man's terrorist may be another's resistance or freedom-fighter.

Unlike earlier forms of it, modern terrorism often takes place far from the country or regime against which its acts are directed, and adds hostage-taking to the political assassinations of earlier times.

For terrorist action to have the required effect of striking terror or achieving a particular political aim, it must have widespread impact as possible. The contemporary global community offers an ideal echo-chamber. Modern media coverage together with the new information technology means that news of the action can reach a mass audience within minutes of its occurrence.

Terrorism has become in recent years a serious impediment to the development of international cooperation and multilateralism. It is part of a spectrum of

global violence and reflects the increasing reliance on violent methods. These methods are not employed only by aggrieved groups but also by governments to harass opponents. According to the United Nations, "disappearances", kidnapping, torture and murder are practised by governments, or by para-military groups protected by them, in almost forty countries. This particular form of terrorism received our special attention and is discussed later in this Report.

Terrorism is an affront to humanity. It violates the principles of international cooperation and understanding between nations which are central to an international humanitarian perspective. It can only be combated effectively through collective action, tenaciously pursued at the global level on the basis of common principles.

The international drug problem

ILLEGITIMATE drug trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of international trade with profits running into billions of dollars. In the United States, the retail value of the illicit drug trade, an estimated \$125 billion, is bigger than most of the giant business corporations. In poor countries, drug money is capable of transforming national economies and undermining fragile political structures.

International crime syndicates are directly connected with the illicit drug trade and launder profits through established financial institutions. The full extent of such transactions is difficult to quantify in the absence of access to bank records but a significant proportion is reportedly recycled for investment in orthodox economic ventures. Drug money also appears to be closely associated with the international arms trade and is an important element in various on-going armed conflicts.

Contrary to the general view of the poverty and chronic underdevelopment which characterise the production of crops in source countries would greatly benefit in the world terrorist, since one man's terrorist may be another's resistance or freedom-fighter.

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have led to increased production elsewhere.

Crop substitution programmes have had equally ambiguous results. In general, they have shown little appreciation of the social and cultural setting and economic imperatives which favour the cultivation of crops used in the illicit production of narcotics. While the income made by the peasant farmers is negligible as compared to the retail value of illicit drugs, for many it is their only means of survival.

Law enforcement measures aimed at thwarting supply routes and penalising or regulating the distribution and consumption of intoxicants, are effective methods to curb drug abuse. Strengthened police activities are almost an automatic response when the prevalence of drug addiction increases or becomes an issue that commands public attention.

On a practical level, treating drug addicts as criminals does not resolve the problem. Those who direct and control the illicit drug trade are rarely prosecuted. Notwithstanding sophisticated surveillance technology, stronger patrols and bigger budgets, police and customs officials can, at best, hope to intercept between 3 and 10 per cent of drugs illicitly entering a country.

A more realistic assessment of the poverty and chronic underdevelopment which characterise the production of crops in source countries would greatly benefit in the world terrorist, since one man's terrorist may be another's resistance or freedom-fighter.

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Drug abuse and trafficking have emerged as a threat not just to a few countries but to the world community as a whole. The repercussions tend to go beyond the problem of drugs to arms trafficking and national security. To date, however, our international system has been largely ineffective in reducing the impact of this trade on human lives. It seems more urgent than ever that the system of multilateral cooperation is strengthened to find a global response to this growing problem.

New East-West climate complicates NATO nuclear plans

By Richard Balmforth
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO is inching ahead with plans to develop new short-range nuclear weapons but the changing East-West climate is tempting key European allies to shy away from giving their final go-ahead.

The Western military alliance says its long-standing plans are on track to develop a new land missile to replace the ageing Lance and an air-to-surface missile to penetrate upgraded Soviet air defences.

But waded by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and with arms control exerting more appeal, some Europeans are reluctant to talk about stiffening the West's nuclear defences just now. They fear moves to modernise could be branded by Western peace movements as a violation of the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile accord, though the weapons involved are not covered by that treaty.

"Inside the alliance things are moving along well (on modernisation). What we do not know is where the political debate is going to be next year," one NATO diplomat said.

NATO's unease centres on key ally West Germany, whose Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has been most upbeat about future East-West ties with Gorbachev in power.

He opposes an early decision to upgrade short-range nuclear weapons now and has called instead for negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce them.

"Compelling disarmament in one area with new armaments in another area is out of the question," Genscher said in a recent newspaper interview in West Germany.

Short-range, or tactical, weapons include artillery shells that can be lobbed up to 30 kilometres and the U.S. Lance missile that can travel about 115 kilometres.

Modernising these elderly systems has taken on increased milit-

ary importance for NATO in the wake of the superpowers' 1987 intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty abolishing ground-based missiles of 500-5,500 kilometres range.

To NATO's chagrin, Genscher's view has now been espoused by Belgium which says talk of short-range modernisation in the current East-West climate is premature.

At a NATO nuclear planning meeting last month, Belgium, whose six-month-old centre-left government has been influenced by the Flemish Socialist Party, declined to endorse an alliance report on short-range systems.

Diplomats say they have also detected sympathy from Italy for Bonn's views. All three countries would be natural sites to deploy a new generation of short-range missiles.

No ally flatly opposes modernisation. But this provides little comfort for those like the United States and Britain who say time is running out and want an early decision.

Both Bonn and Brussels insist there should be no decision until NATO has charted a "comprehensive concept" on security that reconciles arms control with defence modernisation.

The Communist Party chief who leaves this week for his second visit to India, told a farm meeting in southern Russia Tuesday that he plans to visit the United States, Britain and Cuba next month.

"There is much work to be done, and we intend to continue acting in close cooperation with Socialist countries and with all peoples and governments to put international relations on a proper footing and strengthen world security," Gorbachev declared.

He plans to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York and meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush — in addition to engaging in separate talks with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The schedule of foreign travel for the energetic 57-year-old Soviet leader comes at a time when his domestic policies are stirring foment but producing lit-

deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles are etched.

The modernisation programmes also envisage U.S. development of a tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM), with a range of about 400 kilometres.

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A "stand-off" missile that can be fired at Warsaw Pact targets from planes flying over NATO territory is seen by the military as imperative given advances in Soviet anti-aircraft defences.

Against nuclear bombers.

Warheads for this missile would have to be stored in Western Europe, where the aircraft that would launch them are already deployed.

To help governments sell the policy at home, NATO says it could scrap hundreds of warheads in Western Europe — especially nuclear artillery shells — if modernisation gets the go-ahead.

This "quantity for quality" exchange, however, has so far

failed to impress West German opponents of early modernisation.

Tactical weapons have always made West Germans uneasy since their short range would turn their country — and that of their East German kinsfolk — into a nuclear battlefield in a war.

NATO hopes that plans to lengthen the range of the Lance, thereby reducing the deadly short-range threat to Germany, will provide a compelling argument that may finally sway Bonn.

Meanwhile, the parliament of Estonia prepared to consider a "declaration of sovereignty" that would claim the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union in all areas except defence and foreign policy.

Gorbachev complained at a

conference called to encourage farmers from collective and state farms to lease and manage their own land that the modern socialist economic model is not fulfilling the system's potential.

The Soviet leader, although beset by domestic troubles, has won praise for his handling of several international issues: summit with Reagan; the Soviet decision to withdraw from Afghanistan; efforts to defuse the Angolan civil war; and construction of new political and economic bridges to Western Europe.

His most striking foreign policy success has been the U.S.-Soviet agreement scrapping intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

In New York, Gorbachev will bid farewell to Reagan, his fourth-term summit partner. He also will be among the first to welcome Bush to the world stage, where the two will pursue the unfinished business of seeking further cuts in their nuclear arsenals, especially their stockpiles of long-range missiles.

The trip to Havana to meet with Castro, a frank opponent of many Gorbachev reforms, may demonstrate the Soviet leader's willingness to tolerate divergent views within the Communist world. Discussion of the future of Cuban troops in Angola would seem a certain topic of discussion.

Poverty rampant in the United States

By Laura Castaneda
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — More than 32 million people in the United States are considered poverty-stricken, and nowhere is the contrast between rich and poor more jarring than in New York.

In Bohemian Greenwich Village, a young man lives on the sidewalk and peddles paperback books just around the corner from trendy jazz clubs, cafes and boutiques.

On the lower East Side, where a Spanish-language church sits on the same block as a thriving Chinese noodle shop and kosher bakery, poor people of every race and age wait in a crowded health clinic.

In Central Park, cyclists on bikes worth hundreds of dollars whiz by a sickly 20-year-old cocaine addict and hundreds of others who make their homes there.

The federal government spends billions of dollars annually on emergency food, shelter and health programmes. But the high number of people living on the streets, hungry and unemployed, remains a serious problem that directly or indirectly touches everyone in the United States.

Some blame the poor, saying they've become lazy and developed a comfortable reliance on public handouts. Others blame the social system for the loss of well-paying jobs, education and training programmes, a lack of housing and underfunded government programmes.

But one thing is certain: Poverty is a serious problem in one of the world's most prosperous and powerful nations.

"It has reached catastrophic proportions," said Prof. William Julius Wilson of the University of Chicago, who has conducted several studies on poverty in the United States.

"It used to be you could improve your state. That's the American dream. But it's not true anymore," said Tracy Huling of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, adding that the nation is evolving into a class system.

"It's Calcutta come to the United States," said Diana Sonde, director of project Reach-Out, which works with the mentally ill homeless.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 13.5 per cent of the



A young man hunts for food on the streets of New York.

nation's almost 246 million people — more than 32 million men, women and children — fall below the government-established poverty line in 1987. That's more than Argentina's total population.

Poverty is defined by the government by the level of income

enough to lift victims out of poverty or reverse its complex underlying causes.

According to the Reagan administration, the situation is not so dismal. Since the end of the 1981-82 recession, which had sent the jobless rate into double digits, some 15 million new jobs have

And public assistance, although barely adequate, at least provides basic medical care, food and even emergency shelter.

A report by the Employee Benefit Research Institute showed that nearly 18 per cent of the civilian population under age 65 reported no health insurance from any source.

Most poor people would work if they weren't prevented from doing so because of the fear of losing benefits, age, poor health, disability or lack of child care, according to a study by the Coalition on Human Needs.

"I think most people think the poor become so because they are lazy," said Susan Rees, executive director of the coalition.

"The popular notion that the poor don't want to work is just not true. They have a very strong commitment to work and taking care of their families," she said.

At the dilapidated Martinique Hotel, one of 47 used by New York city as temporary shelters, Wanda Perry sat in the lunge room with one of her four children and said she would work if she could find affordable child care.

She also lamented the lack of affordable housing.

"There are a lot of buildings out there that are all boarded up. They ought to gut them, clean them up and make them liveable," she said.

Milija Santomaria, 78, lives in a government housing project with his wife and their son. The

family collects \$691 monthly from social security in a city where rent for a decent one bedroom apartment on the commercial market is \$850 or more.

"It's tight," he said. "It just isn't enough."

Even if the elderly have planned well and have benefits, a catastrophic illness could wipe them out financially.

Some aren't as fortunate as Santomaria and end up on the streets. Estimates on the number of homeless in the United States range from 300,000 to 3 million.

At project Reach-Out, Sonde said teams of social workers get into their blue vans twice a day to hand out sandwiches, juice and cookies to their mentally ill, homeless clients throughout the city.

She said in the peak summer months, they'll see as many as 45 clients in Central Park in less than two hours. That does not even include the homeless who are not mentally ill.

Paul Ramos of the Betances health unit on Manhattan's lower East Side said that a housing shortage isn't the only problem.

"It points to a broader problem — it points to society in general. People come from multi-problem families," he said.

"There's a different thing happening now. This is not a poverty that existed 40 or 50 years ago. It's a different kind of anger. Drugs have also had their effect," Ramos said.

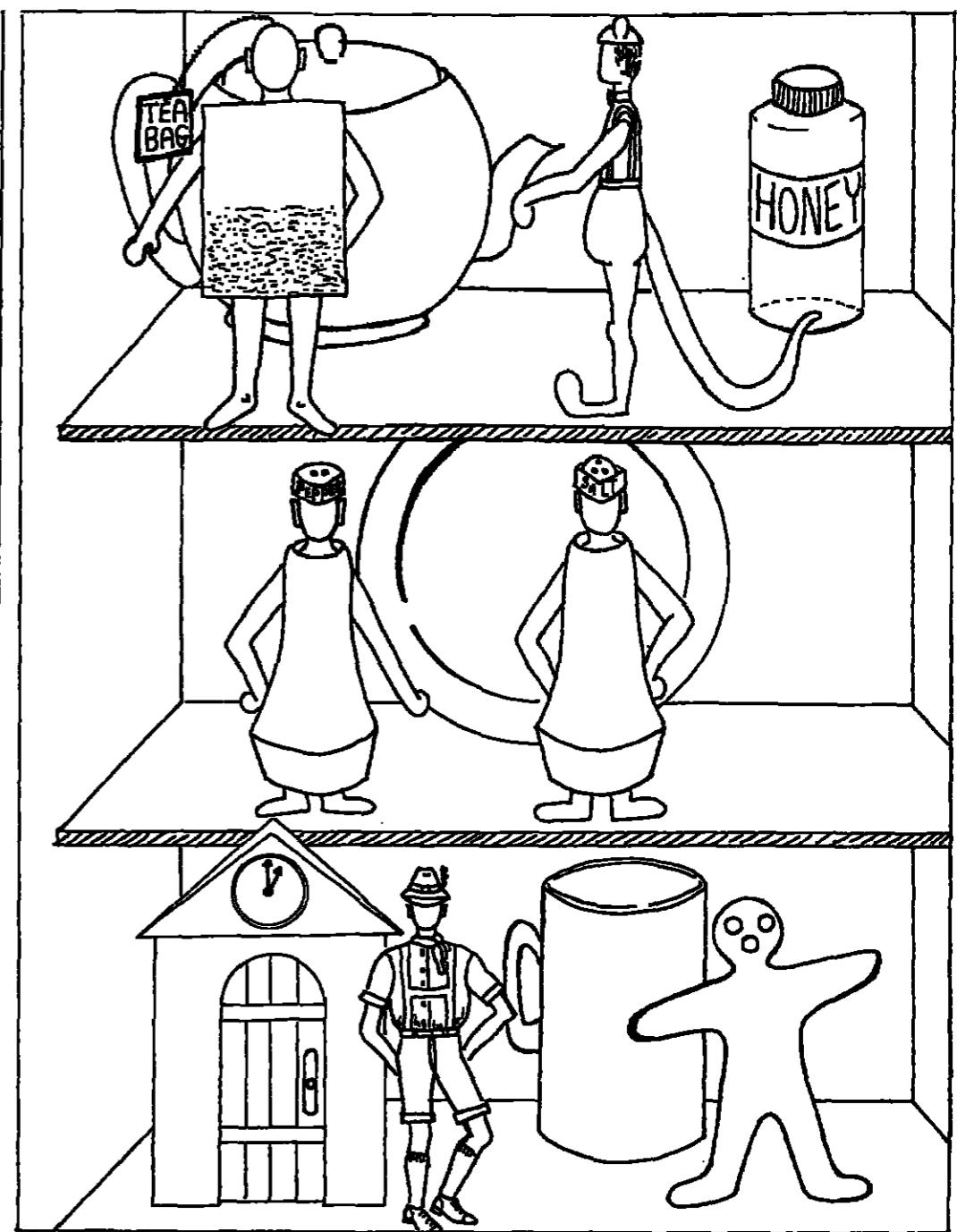
"One thing that would improve conditions in inner cities is to increase employment opportunities," Wilson said. "When people are jobless, they turn to crime. Joblessness is related to other social problems."

He said joblessness could be eradicated through a guaranteed job programme, combined with an earned income tax credit.

Huling said the welfare system has to be revamped, people receiving aid must be allowed to build assets without the fear of losing aid and benefits should be increased.

Ronald Mincy of the Urban Institute said it is important to train and educate children who are living in poverty early so that they can break free of the cycle.

"Society needs this population. There's a waste of human resources out there," he said. "It makes good sense to develop social programmes to meet the labour needs of the future."



Hey its the Gingerbread Man

The Gingerbread Man is coming to Amman next month in a brand new production by the Royal Theatre Company which will be held in aid of the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

Use your paints and colours in this Jordan Times sponsored competition to bring the Gingerbread Man to life and win yourself some free tickets for the opening night performance on December 17. The best entries will also receive a surprise

prize. All entries must be returned to the Jordan Times by Dec. 1, 1988. The judges will award prizes to the best entries in the 5 years and under group and to the 6 to 11 year old group. The winners will be announced in the Jordan Times issue of Dec. 10. All entries will be displayed in the foyer of the Royal Cultural Centre for the duration of the show which runs from Dec. 17 through to Dec. 22.

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Earnings drop at U.N. stamp sales agency

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Earnings from the sale of U.N. postage stamps fell two-thirds in the 1980s, a problem the U.N. postal agency director blames on trying to sell to a vanishing generation of collectors.

"Our base group of collectors started in the 1950s and it is dying, to put it bluntly," said U.N. postal administration head Gisela Grunewald.

Stamp sales are also hampered by the agency's reliance on political and social themes: "Our subjects are much more political; we cannot put out a puppy-dog or love stamp," she said.

One of the U.N.'s best-selling issues, the 1954 Human Rights Day stamp, illustrates the marketing challenge the agency faces.

The human rights stamp probably did not achieve its popularity due to its theme, but because it depicted a mother-and-child scene reminiscent of the Madonna and infant Jesus, and was issued in early December, just in time for use on Christmas cards.

While most political stamps are simply less interesting to collectors, some political issues repel them.

In 1981, the General Assembly instructed the U.N. postal agency to issue a stamp proclaiming "the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

"The Palestinian stamp was an absolute disaster for the U.N. postal administration, from which it has not recovered. Many of the stamp dealers in the United States are Jewish," said Michael Lawrence, the editor and publisher of *Liam's Stamp News*, the authoritative guide for collectors.

"I think we answered 20,000 letters on that issue," said Mrs. Grunewald. "There was a rumour that the U.N. was issuing

a stamp to honour the PLO and that revenue from the stamp will be sent to Mr. (Yasser) Arafat. It is very difficult to explain to the public the difference between the PLO and the Palestinian people."

In addition, said Mrs. Grunewald, the U.N. postal administration received an extra lift that year because it opened a new postal centre in Vienna, joining the New York and Geneva

offices.

The agency also began a series of flag stamps that year, and had other popular special issues that boosted sales in 1980.

A more ominous problem for the U.N. postal agency, said Mrs. Grunewald, is that it is losing the elderly philatelists who began collecting the U.N.'s politically

oriented stamps in the 1950s.

Stamp collectors generally start the hobby as children, drop out in their teens and take it up again in their late 20s or 30s.

"It is not easy for us to find collectors at the young age because of our topics," which are strictly political, said Mrs. Gune-

wald.

U.N. stamps vary in their value to collectors; the 1954 human rights stamp, which had a face value of 3 cents, now sells for up to \$9.50. A three-stamp block in 1955 that honoured the U.N.'s 10th anniversary had a face value of 15 cents; now its value ranges from \$190 to \$20.

A recent audit of all U.N. agencies noted that net income of the U.N. postal administration declined from \$13.5 million in 1980 to \$4.5 million in 1987, and criticised the agency for lacking a marketing plan and leaving two of three marketing directors' posts vacant.

Mrs. Grunewald said a marketing plan will be in place by the end of the year.

The agency has been unable to hire people to fill marketing posts under the U.N.'s general hiring freeze, but other employees have been performing most of those duties, she said.

"There is an inherent catch-22 (paradoxical) situation in trying to run a commercial enterprise in an organization with bureaucratic restraints," she said. "It's not something that comes as a surprise to any of us, although it's sometimes very frustrating."

The real crisis, she said, is that stamp collecting, the hobby that has brought tens of millions of dollars into the coffers of the cash-poor United Nations, is in decline worldwide.

The late 1970s saw a boom in all sorts of collectables due to a high inflation rate that cooled in

the 1980s, she said. Sales of stamps, coins, gold, antiques and other tangible goods peaked in 1980 and tapered off afterward.

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Pressure mounts on shekel as economy in Israel slows

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government is under mounting pressure to devalue the shekel amid the most serious economic slowdown for three years, economists and government officials said Friday.

Pressure from banks, businesses and the public has increased with new figures showing the cost of living index rose a worrying 2.4 per cent in November, ensuring this year's annual inflation rate would be higher than 1988's 16.7 per cent.

The shekel has been pegged to a dollar-dominated basket of currencies since January 1987, during which time Israel has experienced cumulative inflation of more than 30 per cent.

Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno has privately urged the government to devalue as soon as possible, saying that speculation against the shekel was draining foreign currency reserves, pushing up interest rates.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

KHC to run Kuwait Hilton next year

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Hotels Company (KHC) will take over management of the Kuwait Hilton from the U.S. hotel chain Jan. 1 and rename it the Kuwait International, chairman of the board Ali Ahmad Al Ghani announced Thursday. The 415-room hotel has been managed by Hilton since it opened in 1969 as one of the first luxury hotels in the northern Gulf state. KHC is owned by the state Kuwait Investment Authority.

Soft drinks war fizzes up in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India's soft drinks war fizzed to life again Thursday after Coca-Cola, forced out of the country 11 years ago, said it wanted to set up a new processing plant in the capital. The U.S. giant said it had asked the government for permission to build a plant in Delhi to make of the ingredients for its concentrate, made to a secret recipe. Just two months ago its global rival Pepsi Cola set off a storm of protest from Indian soft drinks manufacturers when it was given permission to set up a plant in north India's Punjab state. Coca-Cola executive Robert Wilkinson said his company would export 75 per cent of the concentrate manufactured in Delhi, leaving the rest to be bottled for Indian consumption. The \$2.3 million Delhi plant would be wholly owned by the parent company but Wilkinson said Coca-Cola may look for local partners to help develop its Indian operations. Ramesh Chauhan of Park Exports, which controls 44 per cent of the \$200 million Indian soft drinks market, said it would be a "bad decision" if the government gave Coke the green light. From self-reliance we are moving to reliance. It will be a step backward," he said, referring to India's long-standing policy of keeping out the multinationals.

Iran signs memorandum with Soviets

NICOSIA (AP) — A memorandum of understanding for the reconstruction of some factories destroyed in the war with Iraq was signed Thursday between Iran and the Soviet Union, Tehran Radio reported. The Soviet Union will build a number of factories for the manufacture of basic construction materials, said the report. Four factories will be built or rebuilt in Mashad, Kerman, Ahwaz and Bakhtaran, the radio said. The official Islamic Republic Agency reported earlier that Iran has asked the Soviet Union for speedy resumption of work on joint construction projects halted through a combination of Gulf war fighting and strained relations. Western estimates put the cost of reconstruction in Iran from \$300 billion to \$500 billion.

Reuters sells NBC a stake in Visnews

LONDON (R) — Reuters, the international news and information organisation, sold a share of its controlling stake in the television news agency Visnews to the U.S. National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Thursday and announced a cooperation deal between the two television companies. Under a 10-year agreement, NBC and Visnews will share offices throughout the world and NBC would provide its news and news products to Visnews to be marketed internationally. A statement said London-based Visnews, which has become the biggest television news agency since it began in 1957, would supply all of its news to NBC for use in the United States. NBC was paying Reuter Holdings Plc. about \$10 million for a 37.5 per cent stake in Visnews with Reuters retaining 51 per cent, the statement added. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) owns the remaining 11.25 per cent of the company.

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and officials said the number of jobless was rising rapidly as firms implemented redundancies delayed until after this month's general election.

The economic and monetary problems are complicated by the fact that Israel has only a caretaker government at present while right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tries to form a new coalition.

Audes said Finance Minister Moshe Nissim was resisting being pushed into a devaluation without an accompanying wage-restraint agreement with the Histadrut trade union federation, on which negotiations have not even begun because of the elections.

The black market dollar rate, a semi-official indicator published on the front page of most Israeli newspapers, has soared to 1.88 shekels, 19 per cent higher than the official 1.58 shekels.

But economists said the margin overestimated the likely extent of a devaluation, not expected to exceed 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel has taken steps to increase commercial banks' shekel liquidity, drained as businesses and savers convert their money to dollars.

Unofficial estimates suggest speculative flight from the shekel could wipe \$400 million off Israel's \$5 billion foreign currency reserves in November.

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Bush vows to tackle budget deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect Bush vowed Thursday to tackle the federal budget deficit once he is inaugurated.

"We need to do something about it, and when I get into office we will do something about it," he said.

Bush told a news conference that he agreed with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan that the budget deficit is a matter for concern.

Greenspan Wednesday told the National Economic Commission, a bipartisan panel responsible for recommending ways to reduce the federal red ink, that "such large and persistent deficits are slowly but inexorably damaging the economy."

The federal budget gap totalled \$155 billion in fiscal year 1988

and is expected to top \$145 billion

in the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. Many economists believe that tax increases, as well as spending cuts, will be needed to reduce the deficit.

Earlier Thursday, Bush's transition spokeswoman said that declines in financial markets were not due to Bush's refusal to raise taxes.

"I think it's just that traditional nervousness with change," the spokeswoman, Sheila Tate, said of the markets during a television interview.

She disparaged Greenspan's comments when told they seemed to suggest he would not oppose raising taxes as a last resort.

"Economists never agree on anything," she said.

Greenspan Wednesday offered no specific proposals for reducing the deficit. But he said lawmakers

takes office in January.

"Anyone who thinks that American policy in this area might shift with the new administration or the new Congress is deluding himself," Reagan said in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Reagan said Congress expressed its support for U.S. policies being pursued at the trade talks in the recently enacted trade bill. He said he and Bush would soon meet U.S. negotiators to reaffirm their support for those goals.

Reagan's statement came just weeks before the Dec. 5 beginning of the mid-term review of the so-called Uruguay round of world trade talks, which is to be held in Montreal.

The talks, aimed at lowering barriers to world trade, will focus on commerce in agriculture, services, investments and intellectual property such as books and films.

"The president-elect and I intend to meet with Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter and Agriculture Secretary Dick Lamm before the mid-term review for this negotiation," Reagan said.

In the agricultural sector, Reagan said the United States would be willing to take a more flexible approach.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday Nov. 17, 1988	
Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar 459.0	461.0
Pound Sterling 841.2	845.4
Deutschmark 267.7	269.0
Swiss franc 318.4	320.0
French franc 78.3	78.7
Buy Sell	
Japanese yen (for 100)	377.5 379.4
Dutch guilder 237.4 238.6	
Swedish crown 76.4 76.8	
Italian lira 35.9 36.1	
Belgian franc (for 10)	127.5 128.1

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

Nov. 12-16	Nov. 5-9
Daily average JD 1,919,929	JD 1,814,984
Total volume JD 7,679,718	JD 9,058,718
Total shares 4,734,532	6,263,536
No. of contracts 4,183	6,020
Sectoral trading:	
Industrial JD 3,183,448	JD 6,121,979 (41.4%)
Financial JD 4,144,603	JD 2,290,812 (54.0%)
Service (2.5%)	(4.8%)
Insurance (2.1%)	(2.2%)
Share price index 126.9	126.8
No. of companies 77	71
Price movement (rise) 32	59
(decline) 33	3
(stable) 12	9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.	
One Sterling 1.8110/20	U.S. dollar 1.2325/40
One U.S. dollar 1.7410/20	Canadian dollar 1.9630/40
Deutschmarks 1.4615/22	Dutch guilders 36.47/50
Swiss francs 5.9500/50	Belgian francs 129.12/125.05
French francs 122.95/125.05	French lire 6.0730/80
Italian lire 6.5949/90	Japanese yen 6.7160/90
Danish crowns 419.60/420.00	Norwegian crowns

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed easier in thin trade as the market fell for the seventh consecutive trading day. The All Ordinaries index closed 1.8 points down at 1,493.0.

TOKYO — Bullish sentiment pushed share prices to their sixth straight record close. The Nikkei index rose 103.39 points, or 0.36 per cent to 29,180.20.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed at the day's high on improved market sentiment, encouraged by the U.S. dollar's mild recovery. The Hang Seng index rose 12.37 to 2,581.16.

SINGAPORE — The market closed mixed after mild bargain-hunting alternated with light selling in listless trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 0.14 to 991.37.

BOMBAY — Share prices improved on sustained buying by state-owned investment institutions and speculators. Brokers said the market opened firm on news Benazir Bhutto hoped to form a new Pakistan government.

FRANKFURT — Strong interest in selected blue chips steered the West German real-time 30-share Dax index to close at 1,277.55, up 12.96 points from the previous close.

PARIS — French share prices shed initial gains and turned lower on profit-taking in thin trading. The 50-share price indicator was down 0.12 per cent down at 1200 GMT after starting Friday morning 0.07 per cent higher.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed mixed in heavy turnover. The All Share Swiss index stood at 911 points after 912.4 at Thursday's close.

LONDON — Equities were mixed in late afternoon business, continuing an undecided trend. By 1544 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 1.8 to 1,821.8.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks turned narrowly mixed with blue chips giving up early gains. The Dow was moving around its close at 2052, and only a few more issues showed gains than losses.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Reid wins Dubai golf

DUBAI (AP) — Dale Reid of Britain came from behind to win the Toyota Cressida Ladies Professional Gold Tournament here Tuesday with a final-round 70 giving her a four-under-par total of 142. Reid was two shots off the lead with an even-par 74 in Wednesday's opening round trailing co-leaders Corinne Dibnah of Australia and Trish Johnson of Britain in the \$27,000 event.

Mohammad Ali visits Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali arrived Friday for a visit during which he will tour Khartoum-area camps housing southern Sudanese displaced by war and famine. Ali, an American Muslim, is to meet Saturday with Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi. He leaves next Tuesday for Uganda's capital Kampala, where international relief organisations have mounted an airlift to starving people in the south.

Spinks convicted of drunken driving

DELAWARE (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Michael Spinks lost the decision on a 1987 drunk driving charge, but with sportsmanlike composure, thanked young fans in the courtroom. "Thanks for hanging in there with me, sport," he said Thursday to the children. "Lots of luck." A New Castle county superior court jury Thursday deliberated five hours before convicting Spinks. He was fined \$200, his license was revoked for one year, and he was ordered to enter a first offender's programme for drunk drivers.

Jorge returns to Porto

PORUGAL (R) — Artur Jorge, who guided Porto to their 1987 European Cup triumph, returned Friday to manage the northern Portuguese club after a year in France. "It's great to be back with so many players I know and let's hope we can repeat our performances of a few seasons ago," he said. Jorge took over Matra Racing in Paris shortly after Porto won the European Cup. Citing family reasons, he resigned from the French club two weeks ago.

Xamax-Galatasaray to play rematch

GENEVA (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Friday upheld a protest by Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax following their 5-0 defeat in the away leg of the European Cup second round tie against Galatasaray Istanbul and ordered the match to be replayed. In a brief statement, UEFA's control and disciplinary panel, which met in Zurich, said the match must be played on a neutral ground on a date to be decided.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

THREE STEPS TO SUCCESS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♦ J 2

♦ K 4 3

♦ A J 3 2

♦ A Q 6 5

WEST ♠ 7 3

♦ A Q 5

♦ 9 8 7 6

♦ 10 9 8

♦ J 9 8 4 2

♦ K 10 3

SOUTH ♣ A K Q 10 9 8

♦ K 9 8 2

♦ K Q 6

♦ 7

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Bridge and archeology have a lot in common. In both you have to dig beneath the surface to find the real treasures. Study this hand and see if you can unearth the extra chance.

We are not proud of North's decision to bid no trump. While we have no quibbles with his distribution, certainly his heart stopper left something to be desired; our preference would have been for a waiting bid in one of the minors. South's jump to four clubs was the Gerber convention, asking for aces, and he

settled in the small slam when he found out one ace was missing.

What are your chances of gathering 12 tricks after a diamond lead? Since one heart can be discarded on dummy's fourth diamond, it would seem success hinges on either guessing the heart position (where you can either finesse for the queen or to the king) or a club finesse.

However, you don't want to go down in a slam in a suit which is not critical, so we suggest you don't even consider the club finesse.

There is still another line. If trumps are 3-2 and the king of clubs is only twice guarded, you can ruff out his majesty and set up the queen for another heart discard. So win the diamond in hand, cash the ace of trumps and ace of clubs, and ruff a club. Now get back to the table with the jack of trumps.

If trumps are 4-1, you can't afford another club ruff without risking losing control of the hand. Therefore, lead the jack of hearts and try to guess the position. If trumps do break 3-2, ruff another club. If the king does not appear, you will have to fall back on the hearts. But when the king drops, draw the last trump, take two heart discards on the minor suit winners and cheerfully concede a heart trick to the defenders.

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Gorbachev reassures India of strong friendship, ties

NEW DELHI (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday reassured New Delhi that Moscow's warming relations with other countries — a clear reference to China — did not mean a cold shoulder for India.

In a banquet speech on the first day of his visit to India, Gorbachev complained of "not exactly friendly" comments that Soviet friendship for India was waning.

"Some go so far as saying that the Soviet Union is changing its priorities, even becoming cool towards India. I shall not dignify with an answer such totally groundless and obviously speculative assertions," he said.

Some Indian officials say privately and some newspapers say publicly that they fear better Soviet ties with Peking would be to India's cost.

Gorbachev, who arrived in New Delhi Friday on his first trip abroad in his new role as Soviet president, told reporters at the welcome ceremony that Moscow cherished its ties with New Delhi. The two countries are linked by a 1971 peace and friendship treaty. Gorbachev demonstrated the

importance Moscow places on ties with New Delhi with a visit two years ago, his first trip to an Asian country after he came to power in March 1985.

But recently some Indian press reports have expressed concern over Moscow's rapprochement with China, with whom India has had frosty relations since a border war in 1962.

Following a long estrangement between Moscow and Peking, Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers are visiting each other's capitals in the coming months to lay the groundwork for a possible summit of the two communist giants.

New Delhi is also trying to improve ties with Peking and Rajiv Gandhi is making any official visit there next month, the first Indian prime minister to do so in 34 years.

Gorbachev said Moscow put its

friendship with India in a class by itself. "Soviet-Indian friendship rests on a firm foundation and has nothing to do with any transient considerations or schemes."

'Warm atmosphere'

The Soviet leader had private talks with Gandhi Friday that lasted nearly two and a half hours. An Indian spokesman said they were held "in an exceptionally warm atmosphere" and was at pains to stress that there was no discord.

He said the talks had ranged widely across international affairs and bilateral economic ties, but that no specifics had been discussed.

Gorbachev said he had begun talking with Gandhi about the role their nations had to play in solving global problems.

Said the Soviet Union and India both supported the settlement of regional conflicts, an apparent reference to Afghanistan, from which Moscow is withdrawing its troops after nine years backing Kabul in a war against rebels.

Gorbachev said the two countries would expand their economic ties from trade based predominantly on exchanging products to industrial cooperation.

Raise takes charge

An elegant Raisa Gorbachev had a businesslike meeting with Rajiv Gandhi's wife, Sonia, and other high-powered Indian women.

Raisa was all smiles at a board meeting of a women's magazine she helped found.

But there was absolutely no doubt she was in charge.

"Sweeping in to face the press, she immediately dictated the order of play. 'Let's just sit down and get to know one another,' she said. Sonia Gandhi and the rest sat.

She was presented with the latest copy of the magazine "Hamari Goshthi" (our friendship), a photograph album chronicling the magazine's progress and a video cassette tape.

"Thank you, but I haven't heard this. So many presents, and I haven't done any work yet," she said in Russian.



A scene from the March 19 Belfast lynchings by a funeral crowd of two British soldiers in civilian clothing (Sygma photo)

Two charged in London over lynching of soldiers in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Two men were ordered Thursday to stand trial for the killing of two British soldiers dragged from their cars at an Irish Republican Army (IRA) funeral before being beaten and shot.

A Belfast magistrate's court was shown a video film, taken from a police helicopter, showing corporals Derek Wood and David Howes fighting desperately for their lives against a frenzied mob attack.

The men were knocked to the ground, beaten and kicked before being driven away in a taxi and shot by masked gunmen on waste ground. The gunmen were seen running to a nearby road where they got into another taxi which rejoined the funeral procession.

Henry MacGuire, 28, and Alexander Murphy, 30, were charged with the murders and with falsely

imprisoning the two soldiers and possessing firearms. The court ruled there was sufficient evidence for the case against them to go to trial.

It ruled that a third man who had been charged, 32-year-old Patrick McGaugh, had no case to answer and he was released.

The soldiers were attacked by a crowd attending the funeral of an IRA guerrilla in Belfast March 19.

The Belfast court room was rigged with more than £100,000 (\$182,000) worth of video equipment to show the film, which included British and French television footage.

London bombings

Cardinal Basil Hume, Roman Catholic primate of England and Wales, asked the government

Thursday to reopen the case of four Irish people jailed for bombing two bars near London in 1974, saying new evidence had come to light.

In a letter to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, Hume also urged a re-investigation of the linked case of the so-called "Maguire Seven" who were imprisoned for handling explosives.

"We are now even more convinced than ever that there is an overwhelming strong case for the Guildford four and Maguire cases to be re-investigated and re-appraised. Justice can only be seen to be done if this course is taken," Hume wrote.

Seven people were killed and 88 injured in the bombing of two public houses in the town of Guildford frequented by soldiers. The attack was mounted during a bombing campaign by the IRA.

Elton John plans divorce

LONDON (R) — Flamboyant pop star Elton John and his West German-born wife Renate Blauel said Thursday they planned to divorce. "Elton John and Renate sadly announce that they have separated and plan to divorce by mutual consent when two years have elapsed," their public relations consultants said in a statement. It said the couple would not disclose the financial terms of their divorce. John, whose real name is Reginald Dwight, admitted to being bisexual before marrying Renate, a former sound recordist in Sydney, Australia, in 1984. Renate, 34, said in the statement that she was seeing too little of her 41-year-old husband because of his work commitments and they were growing apart.

Church say 'Thou shalt be polite'

CANTERBURY, England (R) — Guides, ushers and tombstone and vault cleaners at England's medieval Canterbury cathedral are to be sent on a course to learn "the ten commandments of visitor care." The commandments include: "The visitor is an important person and should be treated as such. The visitor does not depend on us we depend on him. The visitor is the person who pays our salary." Cathedral authorities announced Thursday that the course will teach staff to be more responsive to the two million annual visitors. Spokesman Geoffrey Hattee denied it was a response to visitors' complaints and dismissed press reports that stony-faced ushers order visitors to "keep quiet or leave our cathedral." He said praise letters far outnumbered complaints.

French prefer marriage fidelity

PARIS (R) — The French passion for maintaining a mistress or lover on the wane, according to a poll published Thursday. The survey, by the weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, showed 69 per cent of French adults believe fidelity is indispensable in marriage. Young people are even more strongly opposed to sex on the side, with 72 per cent disapproving of the secret amours of their parents' generation. A similar poll five years ago said only 65 per cent of the French believed in fidelity.

Brazilian film festival opens

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Filmmakers from Europe, Latin America, Asia and Canada are attending the fifth International Cinema, TV and Video Festival of Rio de Janeiro, considered one of the world's top festivals. Fourteen films from 13 countries will compete for the "Golden Toucan" award for best picture in the nine-day festival, which opened Thursday. An international jury that includes Brazilian-Argentine director Hector Babenco, Italy's Marcos Bellochio and Argentina's Mario Sabato will also award prizes for best actor, best actress, best director and best works in television and video.

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'Trial' manuscript gets record price

LONDON (AP) — The West German government Thursday paid £1.1 million (\$1.98 million) — the highest price ever for a modern literary treasure — for the handwritten manuscript of Franz Kafka's novel "The Trial." The amount paid for the manuscript, which came from an unidentified seller, eclipsed the \$605,000 paid in New York last year for Kafka's letters to his lover, Felice Bauer. The buyer was a West German antiquarian bookseller, Heribert Tenschert, who said he was contacted by West German government authorities to buy the manuscript for the Marbach Literary Institute near Stuttgart.

A new Christmas gift idea

VIBORG, Denmark (R) — Christmas revelers who feel amorous after an evening's drinking will be able to get free condoms from taxi-drivers on the way home, according to a civic official in this western Danish town. "As alcohol goes in, common sense goes out, so it is good to be reminded of condoms when riding a taxi home," said a spokeswoman for Viborg council's AIDS department. Taxi drivers have agreed to hand out free condoms provided by the council throughout December, a month marked by celebratory drinking and large lunches. Cabs will carry stickers reading: "remember a condom for the one you love."



Koo Stark
sues again

LONDON (R) — American-born actress Koo Stark, a former girlfriend of Britain's Prince Andrew, is taking libel action against a second newspaper owned by publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, according to her lawyer.

Stark's solicitor, Keith Schilling, said Thursday: "An action for libel against the Daily Mirror is due to commence on Monday."

Stark, 32, a former girlfriend of Queen Elizabeth's second son, won damages of £300,000 (\$549,000) from the Sunday tabloid People for articles which the judge described as a "tissue of lies."

She said the stories implied she had an adulterous affair with Prince Andrew, after her marriage to Timothy Jeffries, heir to a business fortune. They are now officially separated.

The People said after the judgment that would appeal against the amount of the damages.

It acknowledged the stories were wrong, but said it did not believe they were defamatory. The information had come from a source the newspaper believed to be reliable.

Stark's action against the Mirror is unconnected with the allegations made by the People in connection with Prince Andrew.

Legal sources said the suit concerned the breakup of British actress Joan Collins' marriage to Swedish businessman Peter Holm.

South African court convicts apartheid activists of treason

PRETORIA (R) — The supreme court Friday convicted four people of treason, three of them officials of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), after the longest trial in South Africa's history.

Popo Molefe, Terro Lekota and Moss Chikane were senior members of the UDF, South Africa's largest anti-apartheid organisation. The treason charge carries a possible death penalty.

The case, which has lasted 37 months and involved 278 witnesses, is one of the most important since the treason trial that sentenced nationalist leader Nelson Mandela in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Judge K. van Dijkhorst found that the UDF leadership had adopted in 1984 and 1985 a policy

of mass protest by violent means aimed at making South Africa ungovernable.

After he was sentenced, Chikane, the Transvaal provincial secretary of the UDF, told reporters: "The UDF is a non-violent organisation."

The fourth man convicted of treason was a local anti-apartheid activist, Thomas Manthata, who had links with both the UDF and a rival group which stressed black self-reliance in opposing the government.

Manthata was also found guilty of terrorism along with seven other activists who had organised rent boycotts during the 1984-86 nationwide black uprising.

Van Dijkhorst found six of the original 19 accused not guilty and they were discharged.

Soviet advanced computers in space mission startle U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Moscow surprised the United States with the use of advanced computers to pilot the unmanned maiden flight of the Soviet space shuttle this week, a U.S. expert said Thursday.

"It tells us that they probably have more sophisticated computers than we thought they had. And it raises the question if they were acquired from outside the Soviet Union and whether or not they were acquired legally," said Marcia Smith.

"A lot of people were surprised that they were able to do this whole mission with automated commands," Smith, a senior space analyst with the Library of Congress, told reporters.

The pilotless white Soviet spaceship Buran — Russian for Snowstorm — landed Tuesday.

Soviet shuttle was a carbon copy of the U.S. orbiter. The two look alike and both are paved with ceramic tiles to protect them from heat.

"I feel quite strongly that it is not a carbon copy of the American shuttle. In fact, one could argue that they have gone one better in the shuttle," Smith said.

She said the American shuttle was limited in what it could carry into space because the orbiter, its external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters must be launched all in one package.

The Soviet Union's powerful, liquid-fuel Energia booster can be used to lift either the shuttle or other very heavy payloads into orbit, she said.

Moscow is building several shuttles and has a team ready to travel on the spacecraft.

Mother's smoking may cause cot deaths

STOCKHOLM (R) — Smoking during pregnancy may cause infant cot deaths, claiming thousands of sleeping babies every year for no apparent reason, two Swedish doctors said Thursday.

The study revealed that mothers who smoked more than 10 cigarettes a day during pregnancy more than doubled the risk of cot death and increased the probability of the child dying at a very early age.

"It seems that the infants whose mothers smoke heavily suffer cot death earlier than other infants — often within a week or a month of birth," Chattington said.

The study showed that babies

were born to young mothers and those who had several children stood a higher risk of suffering cot death. Boys are more vulnerable than girls.

Cot death is the leading cause of death in developed countries in babies one month to a year. The lack of hard evidence about it has led to several theories about the cause including suggestions that the babies die from sudden shock, heart problems or simply from parents smothering them.

"Our study adds to the very difficult puzzle and confirms that we should do all in our power to help pregnant women give up smoking," Chattington told Reuters.

The study showed that babies

go hunting.

Brezhnev himself marked plus-signs against names on a list of the party's policy-making Central Committee for those ready to support his struggle against Khrushchev, and he also marked some minus-signs," Voronov said.

"Everyone was given a personal working over... I was too, all night."

At the time of Khrushchev's ouster, Brezhnev had already emerged as his heir-apparent — according to some recent Soviet studies because he was a grey figure and an acceptable compromise.

Voronov's ground-breaking interview, given at the Soviet government's retirement home outside Moscow, provided the first detailed direct account of events

in the Kremlin during the 1960s by any chief actor in the dramas of the period.

A regional party leader who won a name for dictatorial methods in enforcing official agricultural policy in the late 1950s, Voronov was brought to Moscow in 1961 and promoted to the politburo.

He was also appointed prime minister of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

In 1972, according to his account in Izvestia, he willingly accepted a suggestion by Brezhnev that he retire because he was disgusted at the then Kremlin chief's behaviour as leader.

In the interview he said Brezhnev, who became party number two under Brezhnev, had been the moving force behind the plot.

"It was prepared for a year," the 78-year-old Voronov said when asked by Izvestia for details on the plot to oust Khrushchev, who held the posts of both prime minister and Communist Party chief.

"The threads led to Zavidovo (a village north of Moscow) where Brezhnev would normally

Landlady held in 'Psycho' killings

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — The white-haired, motherly-looking landlady of a boarding house where seven bodies were found buried in the garden was flown home to Sacramento in handcuffs Thursday.

Dorotha Montalvo Puente was arrested in Los Angeles Wednesday night after a nationwide search. She disappeared last Saturday while police were digging up bodies in the three-shaded garden of her Victorian-style Sacramento boarding house.

Police said Montalvo would be charged with the murder of at least one of the victims, elderly people who had been moved into the boarding house by a California state welfare agency.

Social security cheques belonging to the victims were cashed after their deaths, police said.

Police with earth-moving equipment found the bodies wrapped in tablecloths or in plastic bags in holes partly filled with lime. Neighbors who had complained of the smell were told by Montalvo she was using a balloon inserted surgically. Speaking to the American Heart Association's 61st scientific sessions, the scientists said the long term effects of taking large amounts of fish oil are unknown and its benefit in preventing heart disease has not been shown. Dr. Virgil Brown, president of Medlanth Research Foundation, recommended Americans eat more ocean fish as a way to reduce harmful fats from meats in their diets.